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often advances from thirty to fifty *per cent.* beyond its fair value, even allowing sufficient profit to the poor employed, and the dealer in the article. I believe, therefore, that this branch of manufacture is still in its infancy, and that it is likely to have great permanency; and although it may by some be considered as an insignificant source of revenue, yet when it is considered that Providence has given us the means of improving the agricultural state of the kingdom, in raising the raw materials, and that so many thousands of our poor may be employed in its manufacture, I trust that every assistance will be afforded to so extraordinary a source of national wealth.

If any person should doubt my arguments, I will beg leave to state a fact in confirmation of my positions. I had once the curiosity to put into the scale some straw I was about to sell, and I found that it netted upwards of twenty-three pounds sterling per pound weight. If, therefore, an article, which in its unmanufactured state is considered as of little worth, can, merely by the industry of children, be rendered so valuable, I think I risk very little in affirming, that by the encouragement of the British Leghorn, together with that of *split straw*, we gain a sure means of bringing our waste and barren lands into cultivation, and by the employment of our poor children we acquire an infallible means of greatly diminishing our poor's rates.

In order that the British plait may equal the Italian in fineness, I particularly recommend that the rye should be sown on the most waste and barren land, without any reference to its produce, but merely of the straw, the sale of which would afford ample remuneration; and I should be happy to take the produce of from fifty to one hundred acres

of such land, provided it lay convenient to the place of manufactory. By such means the most unproductive wastes will become valuable, and a great source of advantage opened for the employment of young children, and persons incapable of hard work.

An opportunity is thus afforded for benevolent persons to build cheap schools in villages, and assemble the children of the poor together, to whom literary instruction might be given, and the children enabled to earn their own bread; and the whole effected at a trifling expense.

I flatter myself that it will give pleasure to the Society, to find that I have not neglected an object which has merited their attention, and which will be the means of saving immense sums to this country, which have heretofore been sent abroad, for the purchase of an article which our poorest lands and feeblest people can furnish.

#### *Method of Irrigation practised in the Gardens of Bologna.*

(From the Journal de Sonini.)

Of the various methods of irrigation, the preference ought to be given to those which afford to the plants the moisture they require, without exposing them to the risk of perishing, from a too great abundance of water. The mode practised by the gardeners in the neighbourhood of Bologna has this advantage.

The gardens of this canton are divided into many squares, called *vanizes*, commonly from eighteen to twenty palms broad, and of an undetermined length, without, however, being too large, in order that they may receive the slope necessary for their irrigation in a country where water is very scarce.

Each square of the garden is pla-

ced along a small ditch. The square next the extremity, by which the water enters into the ditch, is the most elevated; the others diminish successively in height, and, besides, have a fall towards a little canal at their farther sides, which receives the water after the irrigation. A trench, about six inches broad and deep, separates the squares from each other; and each of these trenches has a little bank raised at its two sides; which banks are well compacted, and form, as it were, walls of earth; for which purpose the gardeners beat them forcibly with a bat, after having moistened them, to render them more solid.

If it is desired to irrigate the whole of the garden, all the upper trenches are closed where they open into the main ditch, by placing at the entrance of each a bundle of straw, and the water is let to run along the ditch to the lowest trench; and a similar bundle of straw is placed across the ditch below the trench, to prevent the water running to waste, and to turn it into the trench; across which, at a small space from its mouth, the gardener places a bundle of straw also, which causes the water to flow over the earth of the bed in a thin sheet: and he moves this last dam successively to ten or twelve different places along the trench, till the whole of the square has been watered below the trench. The water thus spread over the surface of the bed, penetrates it but little, and continues to moisten it till it runs off at the lower side into the little canal placed to receive it.

When the lowest square of the garden is watered, the gardener moves the fascine of straw higher up in the main ditch near to the next trench, from the mouth of which he takes the dam, and proceeds to water the adjoining square in the same manner as that above mentioned;

and in this way he waters all the beds, still advancing from the lowest to the highest: or he can water any particular bed, by stopping the main ditch below it, and letting the water run into the trench above it, and managing it as described.

In this manner, the water moistens the roots without ever wetting the whole of the plant, and never exposes them to be burned by the heat of the sun on the one side, while they are inundated on the other; of course, the crops are never covered by the water, as often happens in the common method, in which a stream of water is let to run at once over the land.

The little banks raised at the sides of the trenches, prevent the water which raises itself in them to the level of the squares, from spreading over their surface. The gardeners of Bologna call this mode of irrigation, irrigation of the surface of the earth (*irrigare a pelo*). It requires much attention, particularly in the disposition of the ground.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

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ON THE BEST METHOD OF FEEDING  
GOLD-FISH.\*

MR. EDITOR,

As many persons in this town have now Gold-fish in their possession, the best means of preserving their health, and administering to their comfort, may probably be acceptable for them to know, you will therefore have the goodness to insert the following. T.

THE Gold-fish is nourished with fine crumbs of bread, small worms, and water snails, yolk of eggs, dried and

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\* This article came too late for insertion in the proper place, and is put in here rather than delay it to the next number.